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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**April 18, 2003**

For immediate release

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## **AMES, WELLMAN TO DEDICATE NEW GLASPALT PROJECTS**

DES MOINES — The DNR will celebrate Earth Day in style with dedication ceremonies for the opening of two new glasphalt facilities in Ames and Wellman.

In Ames, Iowa State University will dedicate Parking Lot 41 near the university's forestry greenhouse with a ceremony April 22 at 4 p.m. The City of Wellman will open a new glasphalt recreational trail April 23 at 2 p.m. in the city's community park.

The educational, informative, fun events will feature remarks from local dignitaries and officials from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Refreshments will be served.

The projects are two of several pilot projects in the state utilizing "glasphalt," an asphalt mix that uses ground glass as part of the aggregate. About 70 tons of recycled container, windowpane and fluorescent tube glass were used to complete the projects.

Despite potential misconceptions about using glass in an asphalt mixture, DOT engineer Mike Heitzman says that glasphalt-paved surfaces are just as smooth and safe for vehicle tires and pedestrians as those made from the more traditional asphalt mixes.

"By the time the glass is ground and screened, it's about the size of silica-sand particles," Heitzman said.

The events coincide with Earth Day (April 22) and showcase one of Iowa's most innovative methods of environmental stewardship. Iowa's waste glass accounts for 3

percent of all solid waste generated annually, and finding reuse outlets for this recyclable material has been challenging.

DNR Environmental Specialist Merry Rankin said the citizens of Wellman and Ames can take pride in the project.

“This project has been a great partnership between local businesses, state and local governments, and citizens,” Rankin said.

**For more information, call Jason Martell at the Iowa DNR, (515) 281-4658 or email [jason.martell@dnr.state.ia.us](mailto:jason.martell@dnr.state.ia.us).**

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## **DNR TO HOST MEETING ON BURNING OF DISASTER DEBRIS, DEMO WASTE, TRAINING FIRES**

DES MOINES — The DNR will host an informational meeting to discuss new and proposed rules that affect burning of demolished buildings, disaster related debris and fires conducted for firefighter training.

The meeting will be held April 30 at 1 pm at the DNR's Air Quality offices located at 7900 Hickman Road, Suite 1 in Urbandale.

This is an informational meeting to discuss the proposed rule changes. As the formal rule making proceeds, public hearings and public comment periods will be offered. Those who should consider attending include municipal government officials, fire departments, solid waste planners, county supervisors, agriculture associations and producers.

The rule making is needed to implement legislation passed last year by the Iowa Legislature (SF 2325). The legislation provides an exemption under which cities may conduct controlled burns of demolished buildings and required the DNR to adopt rules to implement this legislation. The rule making:

- Emphasizes that open burning waiver requests contain additional information to ensure national ambient air standards are met. It limits three controlled burns per year in any three-year period within a six-tenth of a mile radius and requires record keeping demonstrating compliance.
- Limits three controlled burns per year in any three-year period within a six-tenth mile radius and requires record keeping to demonstrate compliance
- Clarifies that burning of disaster rubbish must meet federal asbestos rules
- Distinguishes between training fires and controlled burns
- Defines "bone fide training fire"
- Clarifies that agricultural structure fires must meet federal asbestos rules

**For more information contact the DNR's Brian Button at 515-281-8448.**

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## **DNR ISSUES REVISED FORM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LIVESTOCK FACILITIES**

DES MOINES — The DNR urges livestock and poultry producers to use the new construction permit application when building or expanding a confinement feeding operation.

“The revised form will help producers applying for a construction permit meet requirements that went into effect on March 1,” said Sara Smith, DNR engineer.

These requirements include:

- the master matrix,
- a construction design statement for non-engineered facilities, and
- separation distances required between the new construction, and buildings, public use areas, protected waters and public roads.

Construction permits are needed by new or expanding facilities that will have 1,000 or more animal units, or use earthen manure storage structures, regardless of the size of operation.

The form is available on the DNR website at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) under animal feeding operations or by calling the DNR main office at 515-281-8941.

The DNR website can also help producers determine how many animal units they have. For example, 1,000 animal units equal 2,500 finishing hogs, 10,000 nursery pigs, 1,000 beef cattle or about 714 mature dairy cattle.

**For more information, contact Reza Khosravi at 515-242-6128 or Karen Grimes at 515-281-5135.**

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## **BEACH MONITORING BEGINS; WARNING POLICY UPDATED**

DES MOINES — The swimming season for beaches at state parks may be a few weeks off, but the DNR has already begun its beach monitoring program for the 2003 season.

After three years of intensive monitoring, the DNR has been able to learn a great deal from its studies of beaches, according to Mary Skopec who supervises Iowa’s water monitoring program.

“I think one of the most valuable things we’ve learned is that, by and large, our beaches are safe when it comes to bacteria, probably much more so than many of us would have thought prior to starting our intensive monitoring program,” said Skopec.

Overall, less than 3 percent of the beach monitoring results for 35 beaches in 2002 exceeded Iowa’s water quality standards for bacteria, Skopec said.

Trends have also begun to emerge when the years of beach monitoring results are analyzed.

“We have some beaches that consistently have bacteria spikes immediately after a rain and others that don’t ever seem to have any bacteria problems regardless of rainfall. We’ve been able to learn a lot about how specific beaches react under various conditions,” Skopec said.

The biggest change to the 2003 beach monitoring program will be the criteria used to post “Swimming Not Recommended” signs when beaches experience high bacteria readings.

In the past, the DNR has used fecal coliform bacteria for its determination of unsatisfactory bacteria levels. Swim warnings were posted based on a geometric mean using at least five samples in a 30-day period.

Iowa’s water quality standards are expected to change this summer to use *E. coli* as a measurement of the state’s water quality standard for bacteria. *E. coli* is considered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be a better measurement of potential health risks associated with bacteria in the water.

In addition, the standards will change to use both a geometric mean standard and one-time maximum value. The beach policy this year is as follows:

- Beaches that exceed Iowa’s ***proposed*** geometric mean water quality standard for bacteria (the geometric mean of 5 samples in a 30-day period exceeds 126 colony forming units of *E. coli* bacteria per 100 ml of water) will be posted with signs that state, “Swimming is Not Recommended.”
- Beaches have been classified as “vulnerable” or “less vulnerable” based on the past 4 years of monitoring.
  - Beaches in the “vulnerable” category that exceed Iowa’s ***proposed*** one-time maximum value (235 colony forming units of *E. coli* bacteria per 100 ml of water) will immediately be posted with the “Swimming is Not Recommended” sign.
  - Beaches in the “less vulnerable” category will be re-sampled to verify the result. If the second sample also violates the one-time water quality maximum, the beach will be posted with a sign.

- All beaches will be posted with signs that provide general information regarding ways to reduce the health risk associated with swimming at public beaches. These signs will also inform the public of current monitoring efforts and ways to obtain the data. Signs will be posted in a variety of locations at the park and beach.
- DNR reserves the right to close a beach in the event of a documented health risk including things such as (but not limited to) wastewater by-pass, spills of hazardous chemicals, or localized outbreaks of an infectious disease.
- DNR will contact the county boards of health and/or the appropriate city governments when bacteria levels exceed recommended levels. DNR will work to improve communication with all county and city governments with state-owned beaches to keep them informed of beach condition and track localized outbreaks of disease.

Beaches in the vulnerable category:

Backbone Lake	Beed's Lake
Clear Lake	George Wyth
Lake Darling	Prairie Rose
Rock Creek	Union Grove

**For more information, contact Mary Skopec at (319) 335-1575 or Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.**

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## **DNR ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS**

DES MOINES — The DNR has taken the following enforcement actions. Responsible parties have 30 days to appeal the charges or 60 days to pay the penalty.

- Plantation Village Mobile Home Park, of Burlington, was ordered to pay a \$500 penalty, complete engineering report evaluating alternatives for correcting radium violation; submit system viability assessment and to comply with monitoring and notification requirements pertaining to a public water supply.
- Frederika's Stein and Dine, of Frederika, was ordered to pay a \$2,875 penalty and to comply with monitoring, reporting and notification requirements pertaining to a public water supply.
- Efran Valdez, of Ackworth, was ordered to pay a penalty of \$4,000 and to immediately remove and legally dispose of all remaining solid waste on his property, providing receipts showing proper disposal.
- Champion Environmental Services, of Muscatine, was ordered to pay a \$10,000 penalty, to immediately stop any and all illegal asbestos removal and to comply with all asbestos notification, removal and disposal regulations in the future.

- Wright County and the Wright County Engineer was ordered to pay a \$750 penalty, to stop any all illegal open burning and to stop any and all improper dumping or allowing others to improperly dump or deposit solid waste at the county farm site.
- David Elias, of Iowa City, was ordered to pay a \$1,000 penalty for failing to submit monthly reports for a mobile home park where he is the operator of the wastewater treatment system.
- Dennis Huedepohl and Breckenridge Estates, of Iowa City, was ordered to pay a \$500 penalty, monitor its wastewater treatment facility and to file required reports in a timely manner.
- Tim Schrock and Devon Schrock, of Washington, were ordered to pay a \$4,000 penalty, to remove all manure solids from an unnamed tributary of Crooked Creek, refrain from discharging manure solids from an open feedlot to a water of the state, construct temporary manure control structures until more permanent structures can be built and to develop and implement an approved plan to prevent further discharges of manure.
- Will Axmear of Double A Pumping in Webster and Pine Meadows LLC of Williamsburg were ordered to pay a \$4,000 penalty, comply with minimum manure control requirements and to comply with manure release reporting and manure applicator certification requirements.
- Kyle Jones, of Alden, was ordered to pay a \$500 penalty and to refrain from removing manure from his facilities until a manure management plan has been approved.
- Gary Miller, of Griswold, was ordered to pay a \$5,000 penalty, retain manure in confinement facilities between periods of application, refrain from direct or indirect discharges of confinement wastes into a water of the state, comply with manure management plan requirements and comply with release or spill reporting requirements.

**For more information, contact Kevin Baskins at (515) 281-8395.**